

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for fabricating a driving and locking mechanism for a bearing device,

comprising:

5 providing a bearing device having a first end and a second end, said first end having a curvilinear shape;

providing a strip of metal material with a pre-determined length;

conforming said strip of metal material to said curvilinear shape of said first end; and

attaching said strip of metal material to said first end of said bearing device.

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2. A method for fabricating a driving and locking mechanism for a bearing device,

comprising:

providing a bearing device having a first end and a second end;

determining a circumference of said first end of said bearing device;

15 providing a length of metal material;

cutting a strip from said length of metal material equivalent to said circumference;

bending said strip to have a shape complementary to said first end of said bearing device;

and

securing said strip to said first end of said bearing device.

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3. The method of claim 2, wherein said strip has a first leg and a second leg, said second leg is perpendicular to said first leg.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said first leg extends radially with respect to said bearing device once said strip is fastened to said first end of said bearing device.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein said second leg extends axially with respect to said bearing device once said strip is fastened to said first end of said bearing device.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein said bearing device has a first set of threads disposed on a radially outer surface designed to engage with a second set of complementary threads on a carrier.

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7. The method of claim 6, wherein said bearing device is rotated in said carrier until a predetermined alignment is reached.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said second leg is radially deformed outwardly into a slot formed in a carrier.

9. The method of claim 3, wherein at least one aperture is located in said first leg of said strip.

20 10. The method of claim 2, wherein said strip has a first end and a second end.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said strip is bent to locate said first end adjacent said second end.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said strip of metal material is bent manually.

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13. The method of claim 12, wherein an automated process is used to bend said strip of metal material.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein said first end contacts said second end.

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15. The method of claim 11, wherein said first end is joined with said second end.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said first end is joined with said second end by welding.

15 17. The method of claim 11, wherein a gap remains between said first end and said second end.

18. The method of claim 3, wherein at least one mechanical fastener is used to secure said strip to said first end of said bearing device.

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19. The method of claim 18, wherein said at least one mechanical fastener is located in said at least one aperture in said strip and secured to said first end of said bearing device.

20. A driving and locking mechanism for a threaded bearing device produced by the process, comprising:

providing a bearing device having a first end and a second end, said first end having a

5 curvilinear shape;

providing a strip of metal material with a pre-determined length;

conforming said strip of metal material to said curvilinear shape of said first end; and

attaching said strip of metal material to said first end.